

Church News

Gas Belt Items

Once again by the will of God I am permitted to enter the service of the Master in looking after the spiritual need of those whom it has pleased Him to put under our care. Tho not as strong physically as we once were, spiritually we feel that we have gained by our trials and suffering. I can see a new meaning in "He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." There are some things we must lose in order to gain Christ.

It is said that gas is giving out in Indiana. Such reports are like the one we hear occasionally that "the Progressives are playing out." Occasionally a well fails but others are being drilled and so the supply is kept up. Once in a while a brother or a brethren church fails, grows cold or inactive, but where one fails two others take the place and so the ranks are kept full and progress is made beside. We believe however that our religion is more inexhaustible than our gas. It has its source not in the earth but in Christ, the *living One*.

The work in the several churches is going on in a satisfactory manner notwithstanding our inability to attend to our ministerial duties. Thanks to a very excellent corps of able assistants, Sunday-school superintendents, C. E. presidents and a host of loyal laity. Tho the busy season was upon us when I was able to continue my pulpit work, the attendance at the services has been above the average. All the Sunday-schools are well attended and the interest maintained. The young people's societies show more decline in attendance than any other department of the churches. But a good work is being done by the faithful ones. The Oakville C. E. added one new member at last meeting. The Bethel K. C. will make an effort for a more practical work. The Maple Grove C. E. is yet an infant being organized in April last. The few who pledged themselves to stay by the work at all events are keeping their promise. I believe God will bless their faithfulness by increasing the membership and in good results among the young people of the community. Our last communion at Oakville was a gracious feast of spiritual blessedness. The attendance was the best at any time since our pastorate. The attendance of the membership at communion is a very good index to the spiritual life of the church. Our communion at Bethel came right in harvest but still we had a good meeting. Three of those who came out last winter were baptized before the communion. There are still several to be baptized. There seems to be a general desire among the members to get into a more spiritual state and to do more aggressive work.

Our last visit to Maple Grove was a very joyous one, peace and good will being manifested upon every countenance. Recently I saw among this people such a manifestation of the spirit leading to repentance and for-

givenness as I never witnessed before. It was the occasion of joy to many hearts and I am sure it was to the angels in heaven. We are made to rejoice each week over the good work reported thru the EVANGELIST. May the Lord continue to add to the church. May the Holy Spirit aid us one and all to become more complete in Christ, for by the latter is the success of the former assured. Nothing preaches Christ so convincingly as a congregation of Christ-like men and women. Brethren of the gas belt shall not this be our motto for the next year "More like Christ."

L. W. DITCH.

Falls City, Neb.

Having anxiously watched the columns of the EVANGELIST for a long time to see the familiar heading "From Falls City," or "Falls City Items," and failing to see it, I thought I would undertake to satisfy my anxiety of mind by writing those very items myself. I will only report for June.

Born Again.—The month opened very auspiciously for us in the conversion of two of our Silver Creek Sunday school scholars: Charlie and Nettie Stump, aged respectively 16 and 13 years. Their baptism in the Falls City church was witnessed by a large and appreciative congregation. I feel that this is solid work, and especially gratifying, as it was not accomplished at a time of any special revival effort, but at a regular Thursday evening prayer meeting at Silver Creek, which was established with but little encouragement, of which, nevertheless, this is a direct outcome.

Our Love Feast on the 18th was indeed a feast of great spiritual blessing. I was greatly pleased to have on this occasion the assistance of Elders E. L. Yoder and John Burnworth of the Pony Creek, Kan., congregation, and some of their members also were present. Most of our isolated members came, among them Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Norman of Mount City, Mo. There was great spiritual fervor apparent thru-out all the services of the day, and I feel that it has done our church lasting good. In the morning I preached a sermon preparatory to the feast, from I Cor. 5: 7, 8, Purge out therefore the old leaven that ye may be a new lump, etc, etc. At 3 p. m. there was a consecration meeting, led by brother E. R. Mathers, who took for his lesson Romans 12th chapter. This was followed by an old fashioned class meeting, led by the pastor. It was a blessed meeting, full of spiritual power and fervor. The songs and testimonies were freely given and full of life and were enjoyed by all; closing with a short address in a happy vein from brother E. L. Yoder. The supper was presided over by Elder John Burnworth. The church was full and nearly one hundred sat at the tables. It was a season of calm, meek, humble, holy enjoyment in the example and love of Christ.

Children's Day.—Owing to the fact of our love feast coming at this time, we were compelled to defer our children's day exercises until the 25th, but it gave us extra time for

preparation and the scholars did themselves great credit. The success of the program was due to the efficient management of our superintendent, brother E. R. Mathers, and the stick-to-a-tive qualities of several of the teachers, notably Miss Pearl Lutz and Miss Debbie Mower.

A Surprise. On the evening of the 30th, our little daughter happening to walk around the block, returned, saying "Mamma, all our church people are at the church." My wife asked me if there was any practice or rehearsal of any kind going on. I replied, "Not to my knowledge." This being the anniversary of her birthday, it aroused her suspicions and she dressed in time to answer a knock at the door, and opening it, admitted, to her surprise, a great company of our people, who with happy congratulations and beaming countenances coming of loving hearts, they made us truly happy. Altho it was a wet evening the number nearly filled the house, the King's Children taking possession of the front porch. After an evening spent pleasantly in conversation and song, your servant dismissed with prayer and they departed, leaving the table laden with those things necessary for the support of the temporal life; also a splendid clock and some glassware; and this is not all, for some who could not be present, wife has since received a splendid dress (making and all included), a new hat, and a fine piece of table linen. We can scarcely express to our dear people how grateful we feel for this expression of their love and esteem and the warm place they have given us in their hearts, and we can only trust that the Lord will enable us to minister unto them greater spiritual blessings.

J. ELLWOOD BRAKER, Pastor.

Holsingerisms No. 27

In our work on the History of the Tunkers we have discovered that the names of Mack and Saur, so prominently associated with the early work of the church, are now conspicuous for their absence from the ministerial list of all branches of the fraternity. Not a minister of the name of Mack or Saur in the brotherhood. Why is this? I am a great great grand-son of the second Alexander Mack, but it is on my grand-mother's side of the house. She was a grand daughter of Alexander Mack, Jr. Where are the Macks? Does blood go for nought in church work? Can any EVANGELIST reader give me a clue to the whereabouts of any descendent of elder Jacob Mack, whose name appears on the ministerial list of 1871, at Vermont, Ill?

Defective Theology.—EVANGELIST No. 26 contains an item, under the title of "Washington City Items," which is too far out of the way to be passed without correction. The writer says: "God says we shall not be one above another, but all as babes in Christ. This banishes our power of ex-communication; to attempt to root out the tares which Christ so plainly forbids his disciples to do." The first mistake is made in concluding that because no one is greater than another, therefore one is equal to all the